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BILL MANTLO WRITER / LEE ELIAS ARTIST / R. VILLAMONTE INKER / C. ROBINS LETTERS / MICHELE W. COLORS / BOB HALL EDITOR / J. SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A KNOCKDOWN, DRAG-OUT FIGHT IS, WE ADMIT, AN UNUSUAL WAY TO BEGIN A HUMAN FLY ADVENTURE...
...BUT IT'S RIGHT IN THE SPIRIT OF THIS TALE WE'VE ENTITLED--
WAR IN THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT!
THIS IS INSANE! I BRING YOU TO D.C. TO MEET MY OLD ARMY BUDDIES...
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT QUIET PLEASE
FWAP!
SOK!
...AND WE RUN INTO A BELLIGERENT CREW OF HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARDS--
--WHO WAVE GUNS IN OUR FACES WHEN WE REFUSE TO LEAVE!

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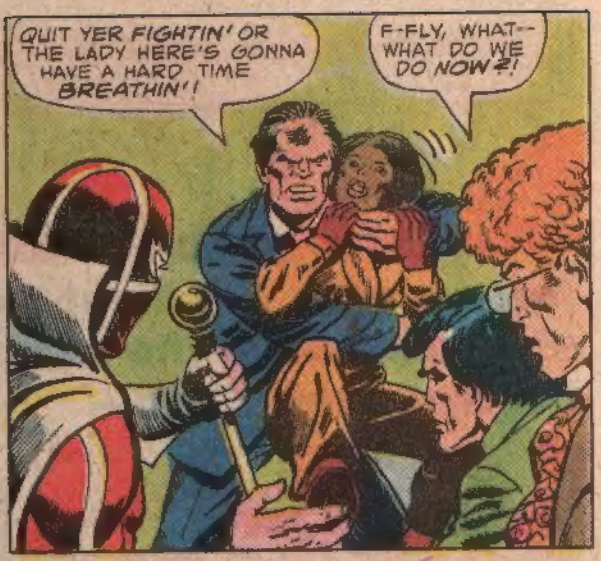
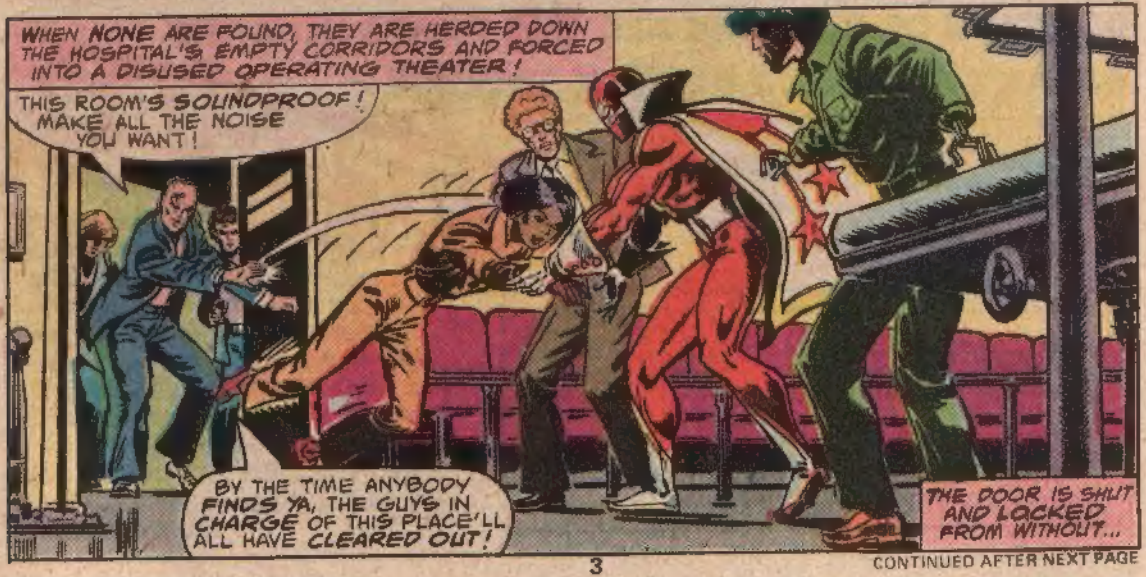
ANY IDEA WHY WE'RE RECEIVING SO WARM A RECEPTION, TED?
NONE, FLY!
SLICK GORDON'S LETTERS DIDN'T HINT AT ANY KIND OF TROUBLE!
IT'S OUR JOB T'KEEP YOU BLEEDIN' HEARTS OUTTA HERE UNTIL THE DOCS HAVE SPLIT WITH THE RECORDS!
SWOK!
STOP! YOU CAN'T HIT A MAN WITH GLASSES... NOT TO MENTION ULCERS!
THE FLY FIGHTS ON IN SILENCE--HATING THE SOUND OF FIST AGAINST FLESH...
WHAP!
WHY DID THESE GUYS GO SO CRAZY THE MINUTE WE ASKED FOR SLICK GORDON?
...AS HE TRIES NOT TO HATE THOSE WHO MAKE SUCH VIOLENCE NECESSARY!
BUT TED LOCKE, STUNT ENGINEER, FEELS NO SUCH COMPUNCTIONS!
U-UNGHH!
TAKE THAT, CRUD!
FWAK!
VIETNAM VETERAN...AND VICTIM OF THAT UNDECLARED WAR...TED HAS COME TO POTOMAC HOSPITAL TO FIND ONE SLICK GORDON!
A BUDDY WHO'D SHARED THE HORRORS OF 'NAM WITH HIM...
...UNTIL THE DAY AN AMERICAN LAND MINE COST TED HIS HANDS!




WHEN NONE ARE FOUND, THEY ARE HERDED DOWN THE HOSPITAL'S EMPTY CORRIDORS AND FORCED INTO A DISUSED OPERATING THEATER!
THIS ROOM'S SOUNDPROOF! MAKE ALL THE NOISE YOU WANT!
BY THE TIME ANYBODY FINDS YA, THE GUYS IN CHARGE OF THIS PLACE'LL ALL HAVE CLEARED OUT!
THE DOOR IS SHUT AND LOCKED FROM WITHOUT...

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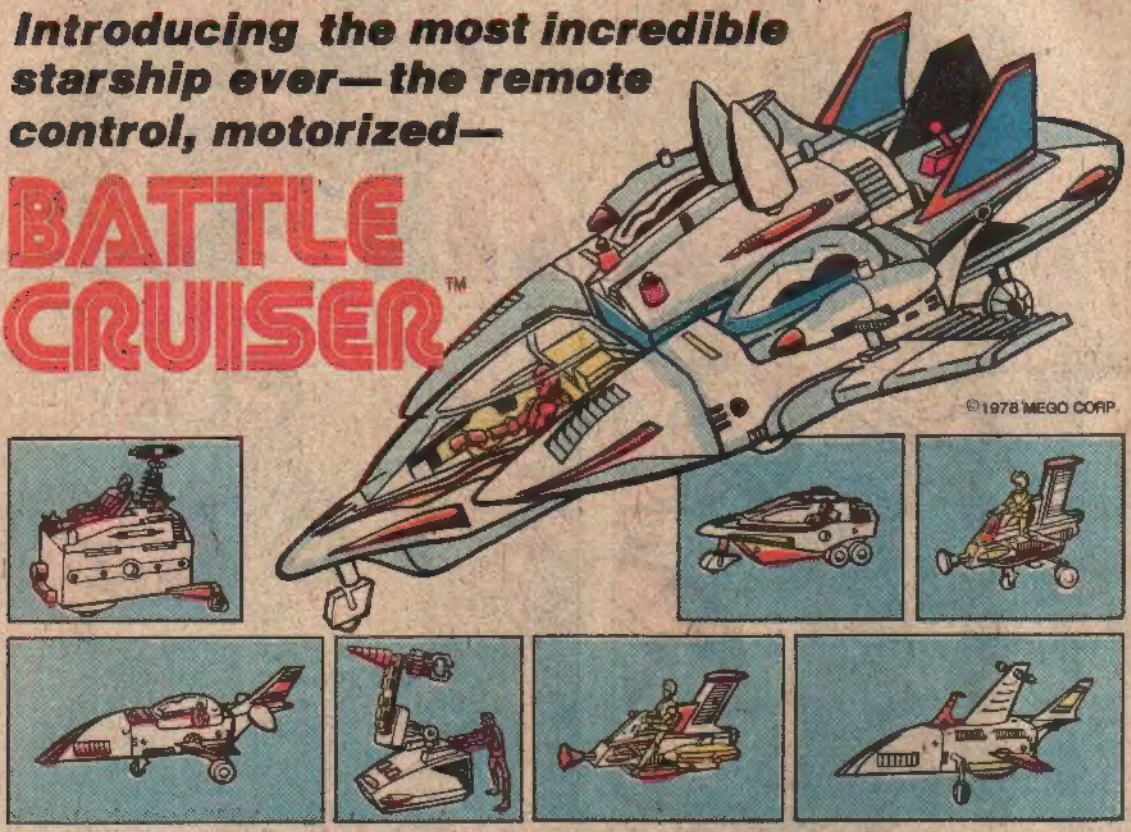

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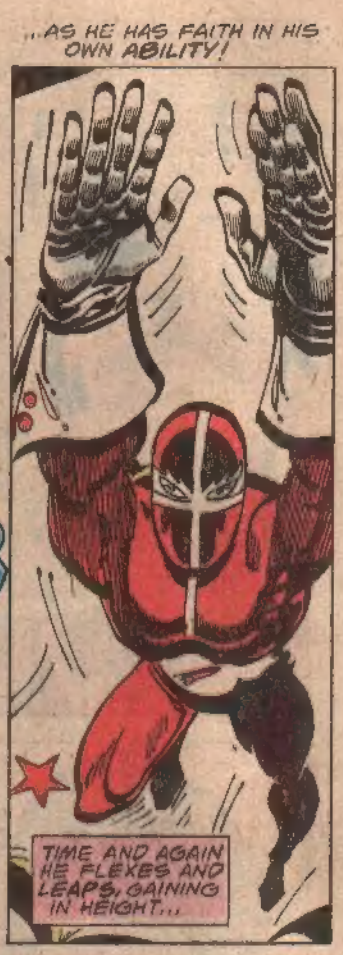
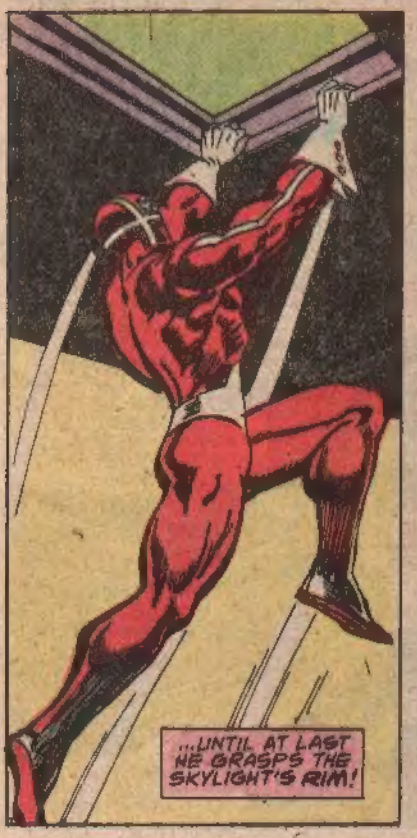
...LEAVING THE FLY AND HIS CREW TO EXAMINE THE CONFINES OF THEIR "CELL!"
FLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY MEANT ABOUT RUNNING OFF WITH THE RECORDS?
MY GUESS IS THAT IT MAY HAVE TO DO WITH MISUSE OF THE VETERANS' BENEFITS!
NO WAY TO TELL UNLESS WE GET OUT OF HERE... TED?
UH-OH! I SENSE A STUNT BREWING!
IT'S POSSIBLE, FLY--THAT SKYLIGHT OVERHEAD...
BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET UP THERE?!
HE'S GOING TO LEAP, ARNIE, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM ME! THOSE GOONS WHO IMPRISONED US DIDN'T THINK TO SEARCH FOR SPECIAL PROPS--
--HIDDEN INSIDE MY PROSTHETIC ARM!
I'LL NEED YOUR CAPE, FLY...!
AND, MINUTES LATER...
YOU THINK IT WILL TAKE THE STRAIN WITHOUT TEARING, TED?
IT SHOULD, FLY...!
YOUR CAPE IS INTERWOVEN WITH STEEL MESH FIBERS--
--CAPABLE OF BEARING THE SAME AMOUNT OF STRESS AS THIS HIGH-TENSION-CABLE WE'RE USING--
--TO ANCHOR IT TO THE RAILING AROUND THE AMPHITHEATER!

VOILA--INSTANT TRAMPOLINE! YOU'RE A GENIUS, TED!
I ONLY DESIGN THESE STUNTS, ARNIE!
THE FLY'S THE ONE WHO TAKES THE RISK THAT THEY WON'T WORK!
BUT THEY DO WORK--AND THE HUMAN FLY PREPARES TO TEST THE MAKESHIFT TRAMPOLINE...

SPROING!
...WITH AS MUCH CONFIDENCE IN TED'S DESIGN...


...AS HE HAS FAITH IN HIS OWN ABILITY!
TIME AND AGAIN HE FLEXES AND LEAPS, GAINING IN HEIGHT...


...UNTIL AT LAST HE GRASPS THE SKYLIGHT'S RIM!

AND...
KRASH

THAT'S ANOTHER ONE I OWE THE DOCTORS WHO REPLACED 60% OF MY BONE STRUCTURE WITH STEEL ENABLING ME TO WITHSTAND INCREDIBLE STRAIN!
NOW--TO GET BACK INSIDE AND FREE THE CREW!
* HF #1 --BOB

BUT FIRST I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND!
MY GUESS IS THEY WON'T HAVE ANYONE GUARDING THE FIFTH STORY WINDOWS.
SILENTLY, THE FLY MOVES FROM WINDOW TO WINDOW UNTIL FINALLY--
--HAVING SEEN ENOUGH...
GOOD! THEY ONLY HAVE ONE GOON GUARDING THE OPERATING THEATER! EH? THAT RADIO REPORT--!
...POLICE ARE STILL UNABLE TO APPREHEND TWO ARMED VETERANS WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT...
...PROTESTING WHAT THEY CLAIM ARE INHUMAN CONDITIONS AT POTOMAC HOSPITAL!
IF ONE OF THOSE VETS IS TED'S FRIEND, IT COULD EXPLAIN A LOT!
WHAT--?!
UKKK!
THOK!
GO TO SLEEP, BRUTUS!
SECONDS LATER...
FLY! YOU MADE IT!
QUIET, EVERYONE! THERE'S A BACK ENTRANCE WE CAN SNEAK THROUGH! BUT BE CAREFUL--
--THIS PLACE IS LIKE AN ARMED CAMP! I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS AS WE GO!
THE VETS SAY THEY'LL BLOW UP THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT UNLESS THE HOSPITAL IS INVESTIGATED.
IF I'M NOT WRONG, ONE OF THE VETS IS SLICK GORDON!
SLICK! THEN THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE GUARDS WENT SO BERSERK WHEN WE MENTIONED HIS NAME!
RIGHT! THEY ASSUMED WE WERE HERE TO INVESTIGATE THEM!
EVERYONE KEEP WATCH, WHILE I HEAD FOR THAT PHONE BOOTH!
MOMENTS LATER...
...IF YOU CAN GET A WARRANT FAST, YOU CAN CATCH THE ADMINISTRATORS MAKING OFF WITH THE HOSPITAL RECORDS!
BUT COME PREPARED TO TAKE ON A WHOLE GANG OF THUGS ACTING AS SECURITY GUARDS.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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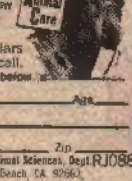

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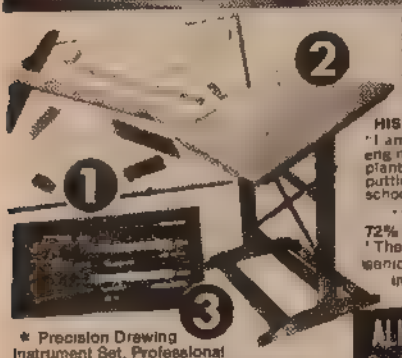

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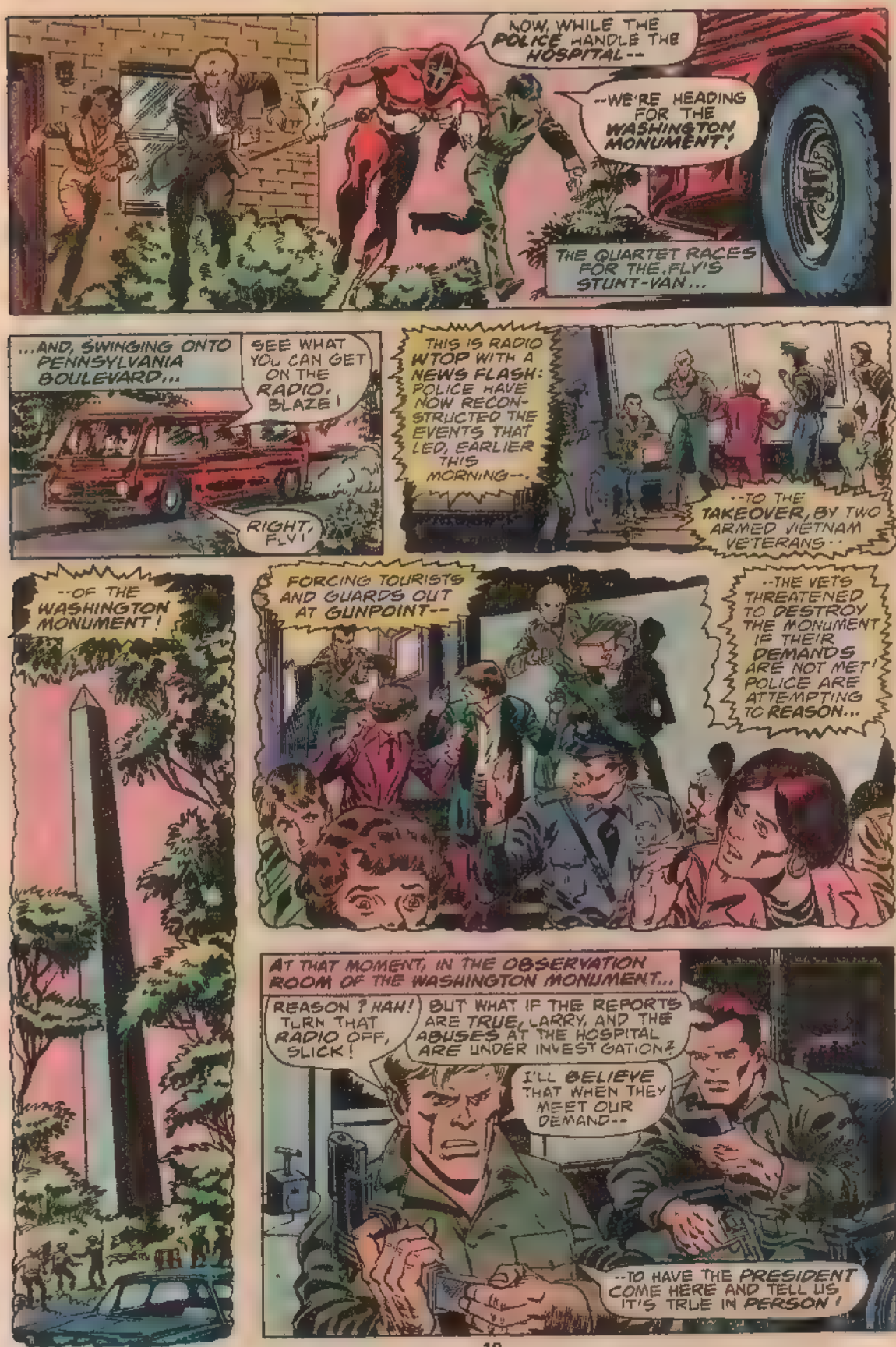
NOW, WHILE THE POLICE HANDLE THE HOSPITAL--
--WE'RE HEADING FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT!
THE QUARTET RACES FOR THE FLY'S STUNT-VAN...
...AND, SWINGING ONTO PENNSYLVANIA BOULEVARD...
SEE WHAT YOU CAN GET ON THE RADIO, BLAZE!
RIGHT, FLY!
THIS IS RADIO WTOP WITH A NEWS FLASH: POLICE HAVE NOW RECONSTRUCTED THE EVENTS THAT LED, EARLIER THIS MORNING--
--TO THE TAKEOVER, BY TWO ARMED VIETNAM VETERANS--
--OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT!
FORCING TOURISTS AND GUARDS OUT AT GUNPOINT--
--THE VETS THREATENED TO DESTROY THE MONUMENT IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT MET! POLICE ARE ATTEMPTING TO REASON...
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE OBSERVATION ROOM OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT...
REASON? HAH! TURN THAT RADIO OFF, SLICK!
BUT WHAT IF THE REPORTS ARE TRUE, LARRY, AND THE ABUSES AT THE HOSPITAL ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION?
I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN THEY MEET OUR DEMAND--
--TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT COME HERE AND TELL US IT'S TRUE IN PERSON!

WHILE, ON THE SLOPES BELOW..
MISTER, I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA UNDER THAT MASK..NOBODY GOES NEAR THAT MONUMENT!
THE VETS HAVE WIRED THE STAIRS TO EXPLODE IF ANYONE TRIES TO GO UP! THEY'VE FIRED ON OUR COPTERS!
LOOK, OFFICER- YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET ME TRY TO REACH THEM! THEY'LL BLOW THEMSELVES UP BEFORE THEY'LL LET YOU TAKE THEM
YEAH..AND THE PRESIDENT'S IN THE MIDEAST, SO HE CAN'T TALK TO THEM! ALL RIGHT, MISTER..WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?
I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO LIKE THIS!
IT'S TOO RISKY FROM THE OUTSIDE --THEY'D SPOT ME THE ELEVATOR SHAFT, TED?
WORTH A TRY, FLY--BUT WHAT IF IT'S BLOCKED BY THE ELEVATOR ITSELF?
WE HAVE THE MEANS TO DEAL WITH THAT IN THE STUNT-VAN!
YOU'RE NUTS--BOTH OF YOU!
I AGREE, MR BERMAN --BUT IT JUST MIGHT WORK WHERE NOTHING ELSE HAS!
BETTER TAKE A WALKIE-TALKIE ALONG FLY, SO YOU CAN MONITOR OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VETS!
OH, AND FLY--GOOD LUCK!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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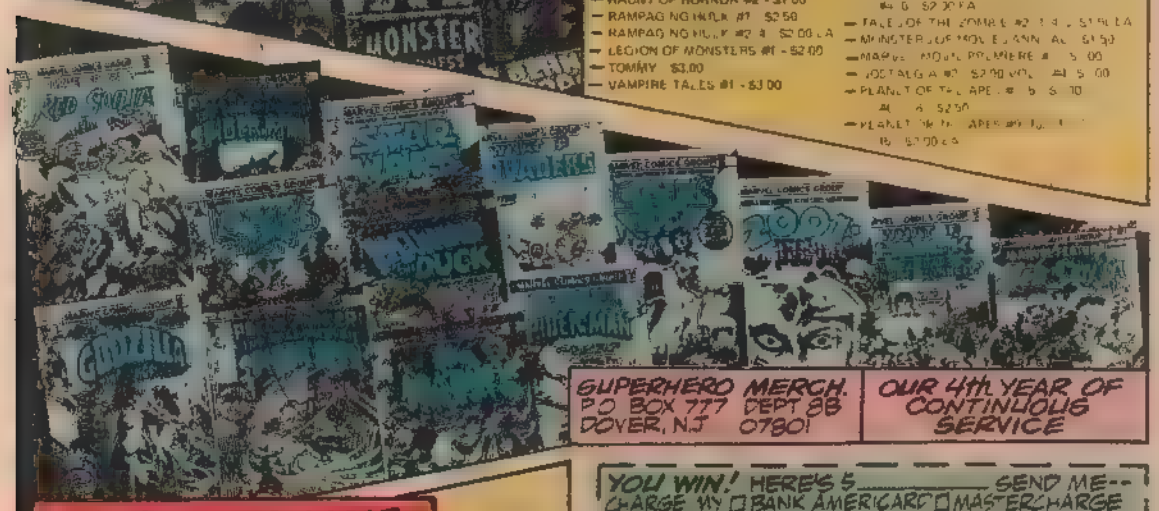

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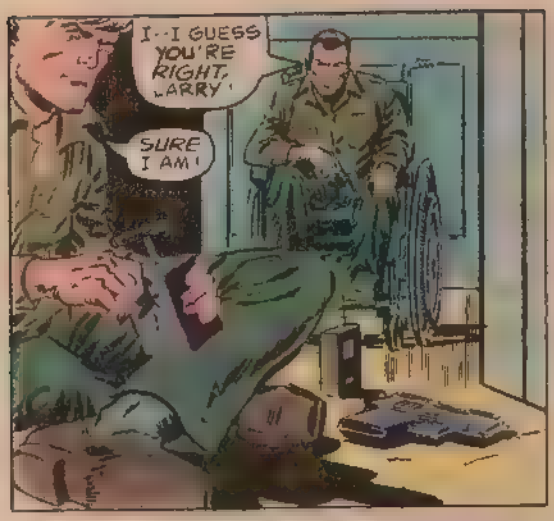
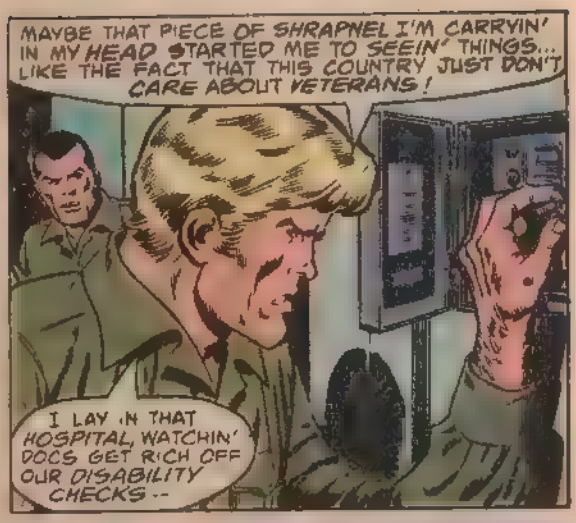
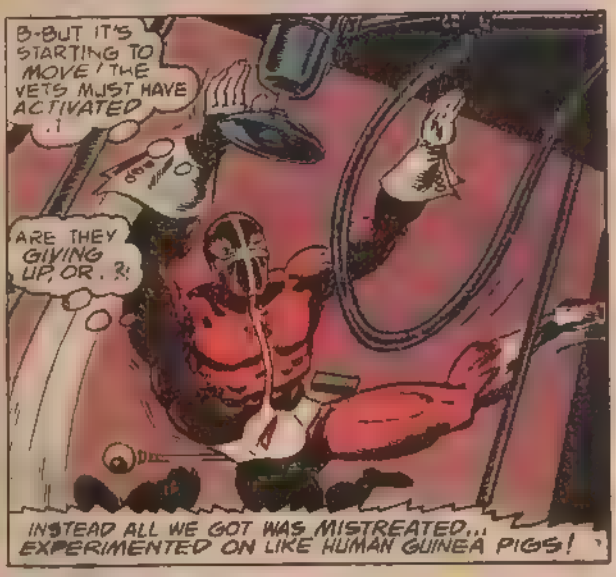
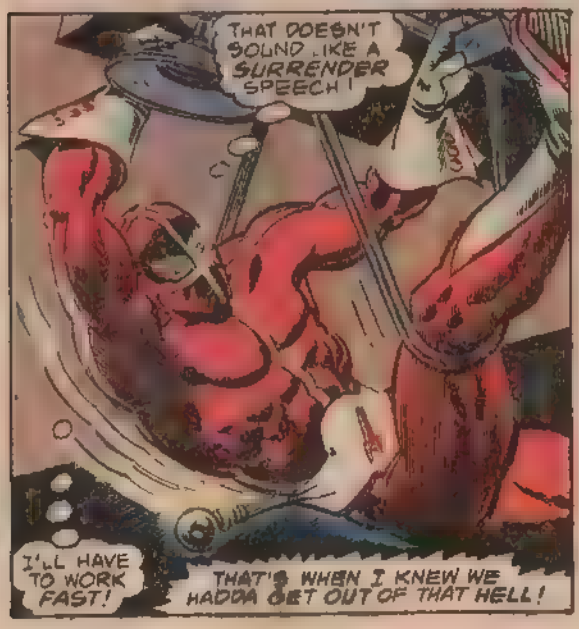
Sales Leader Since 1958

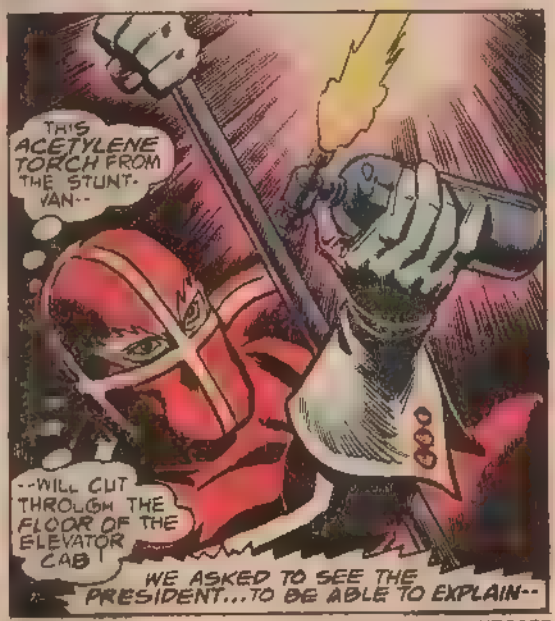
A LITTLE UNDER AN HOUR LATER, INSIDE THE DARK AND SILENT ELEVATOR SHAFT RUNNING UP THE CENTER OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT...
..LUCK HAS TAKEN A BACK SEAT...
..TO SKILL!
WHILE, ON THE OBSERVATION DECK FAR ABOVE
LARRY--LISTEN TO THIS!
SLICK --THIS IS TED LOCKE!
YOUR DEMANDS HAVE BEEN MET, BUDDY! THE HOSPITAL IS ALREADY UNDER INVESTIGATION!
THE ADMINISTRATORS WHO CHEATED YOU HAVE ALL SPLIT!
WE BEEN LIED TO ENOUGH, LOCKE... IN 'NAM--
AN' IN THAT BUTCHER SHOP THEY CALLED A V.A. HOSPITAL!
BUT...!
BUT NUTHIN'! I FOUGHT THEIR LOUSY WAR... AN' I'M STILL FIGHTING IT EVERY NIGHT IN MY DREAMS!
WE'RE HOLDIN' THIS POSITION, GORDON! EITHER THEY GIVE US WHAT WE WANT--
--OR WE SHOW THEM FIREWORKS THAT'LL PUT THE FOURTH OF JULY TO SHAME!
TED'S NOT GETTING THROUGH TO SLICK'S BUDDY! I'VE GOT TO HURRY!




MAYBE THAT PIECE OF SHRAPNEL I'M CARRYIN' IN MY HEAD STARTED ME TO SEEIN' THINGS... LIKE THE FACT THAT THIS COUNTRY JUST DON'T CARE ABOUT VETERANS!
I LAY IN THAT HOSPITAL, WATCHIN' DOCS GET RICH OFF OUR DISABILITY CHECKS --


B-BUT IT'S STARTING TO MOVE! THE VETS MUST HAVE ACTIVATED.!
ARE THEY GIVING UP, OR..?!
INSTEAD ALL WE GOT WAS MISTREATED... EXPERIMENTED ON LIKE HUMAN GUINEA PIGS!




THIS ACETYLENE TORCH FROM THE STUNT-VAN--
--WILL CUT THROUGH THE FLOOR OF THE ELEVATOR CAB!
WE ASKED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT...TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN--

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

HEEL, SUPERDOGS !!! IT'S MILK DUDS SUPERDUDS

Milk Duds
Milk Duds

Superduds of the Universe, take heart! At last our time has come.

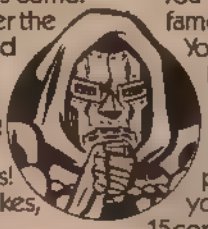
No longer will we suffer the scorn of those who would mock our cause.

No longer will we bear the insults of the sniveling superavengers.

Groveling glory-seekers! They have their sweepstakes, and we shall have ours.

The Infamous Milk Duds Superduds Sweepstakes, to be precise.

Just fill out the entry blank, then mail it back to us. And strike a blow for Superduds everywhere.



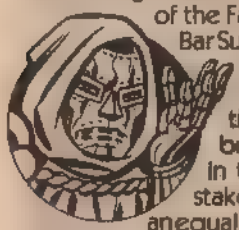
A MASTERMIND [illegible]

To all Milk Duds, Slo Poke, and Black Cow eaters, we offer an opportunity that the misguided followers of superheroes cannot share.

And you shall hear all about it, in due time.

But first, have patience while we tell you of our grand design.

Our design for total domination of the Famous Clark Bar Superhero (Ha!) Sweepstakes. We shall insist that your entry be accepted in their Sweepstakes. To give you an equal chance at the prizes they offer to their toadies. We shall use force, if necessary.



YOUR DATE WITH DESTINY!

Now for the spoils of victory. The rich rewards of ruthlessness.

If you should be the first-prize winner, you and your family (limit of four people) will be flown to New York City and back.

You'll stay for three days and two nights. All expenses paid.

You'll be taken on a personal tour of the Marvel Comics offices, where an artist will draw your image into an upcoming issue of your favorite Marvel Comic.

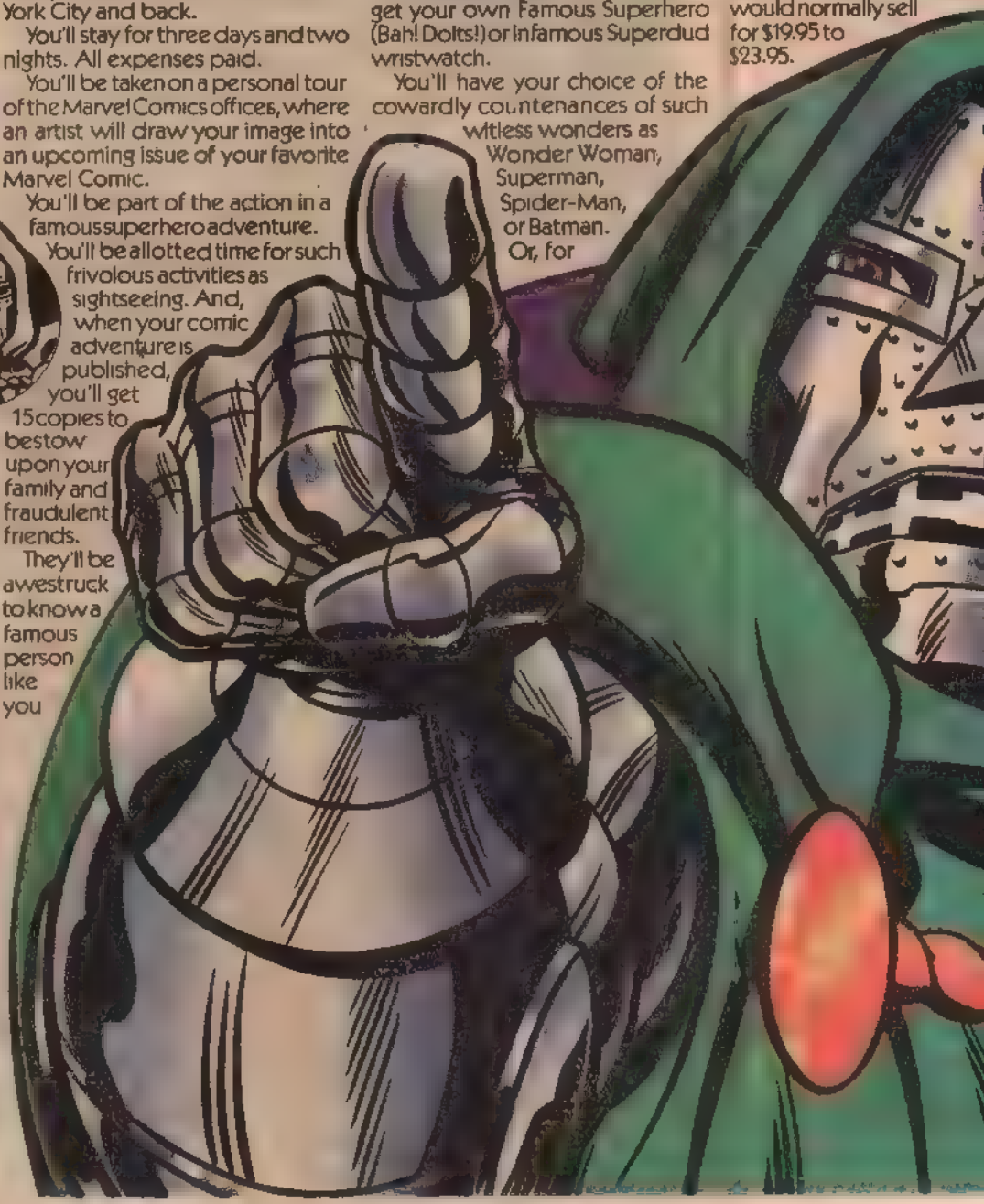
You'll be part of the action in a famous superhero adventure.

You'll be allotted time for such frivolous activities as sightseeing. And, when your comic adventure is published, you'll get 15 copies to bestow upon your family and fraudulent friends.

They'll be awestruck to know a famous person like you

If you happen to be one of the 20 second-prize winners, you'll get your own Famous Superhero (Bah! Dolts!) or Infamous Superdud wristwatch.

You'll have your choice of the cowardly countenances of such witless wonders as Wonder Woman, Superman, Spider-Man, or Batman. Or, for the enlightened among yo The full-color Swiss-mad would normally sell for $19.95 to $23.95.

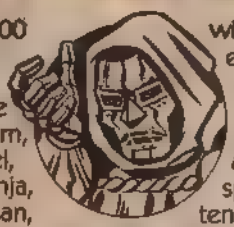


GS !!! IT'S THE INFAMOUS ERDUDS SWEEPSTAKES!

ppen to be one of the -prize winners, you'll wn Famous Superhero or Infamous Superdud ..

ve your choice of the countenances of such itless wonders as Wonder Woman, Superman, Spider-Man, or Batman. Or, for the enlightened among you, the Joker. The full-color Swiss-made watches would normally sell for $19.95 to $23.95.

If you should be one of the 100 third-prize winners, you'll get a year's subscription to the DC or Marvel comic of your choice. The Incredible Hulk, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Ms. Marvel, Captain America, Red Sonja, Justice Society, Plastic Man, Thor, you name it. Even that precious poppet, Little Lulu.



will automatically be entered in a special drawing. And ten of those people, maybe even you, are going to win splendid Schwinn ten-speed bicycles. Of course, wrappers from Milk Duds, Slo Poke or Black Cow can also help you get all kinds of super premiums. All of the details are in the Famous Clark Bar ads.

So find yourself a pen or pencil, fill out the entry blank– the rules (alas, we do have rules) say you must print– and mail your entry before November 1, 1978.

It's so easy, even a simple-minded super-do-gooder could do it.

GRAND AND GLORIOUS SUPERDUDPRIZE!

And now, faithful followers, we come to the opportunity we promised earlier. In addition to drawings for all those prizes you've just been reading about, everybody who dares to enter the Infamous Milk Duds Superduds Sweep-stakes

THE INFAMOUS MILK DUDS SUPERDUDS SWEEPSTAKES!

P.O. Box 55 Chicago, Illinois 60677

RULES

1. To enter, type or print clearly your name, address and zip code on the official entry blank, or on a plain piece of 3" x 5" paper. You can enter as many times as you want, but each entry must be mailed separately.
2. With each entry, send one wrapper from any Holloway or Clark candy product, or the words MILK DUDS printed on a separate piece of 3" x 5" paper. (You can send wrappers from Milk Duds, Slo Poke, Black Cow, Clark, Crispy, Zagnut, Crunchy, Light or Peanut Butter Log.)
3. Send entries to Superduds Sweepstakes, Box 55, Chicago, Illinois 60677.
4. Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 1978 and received by November 10, 1978.
5. Winners will be determined in random drawings conducted by H. Olsen & Company, an independent judging organization, whose decisions are final.
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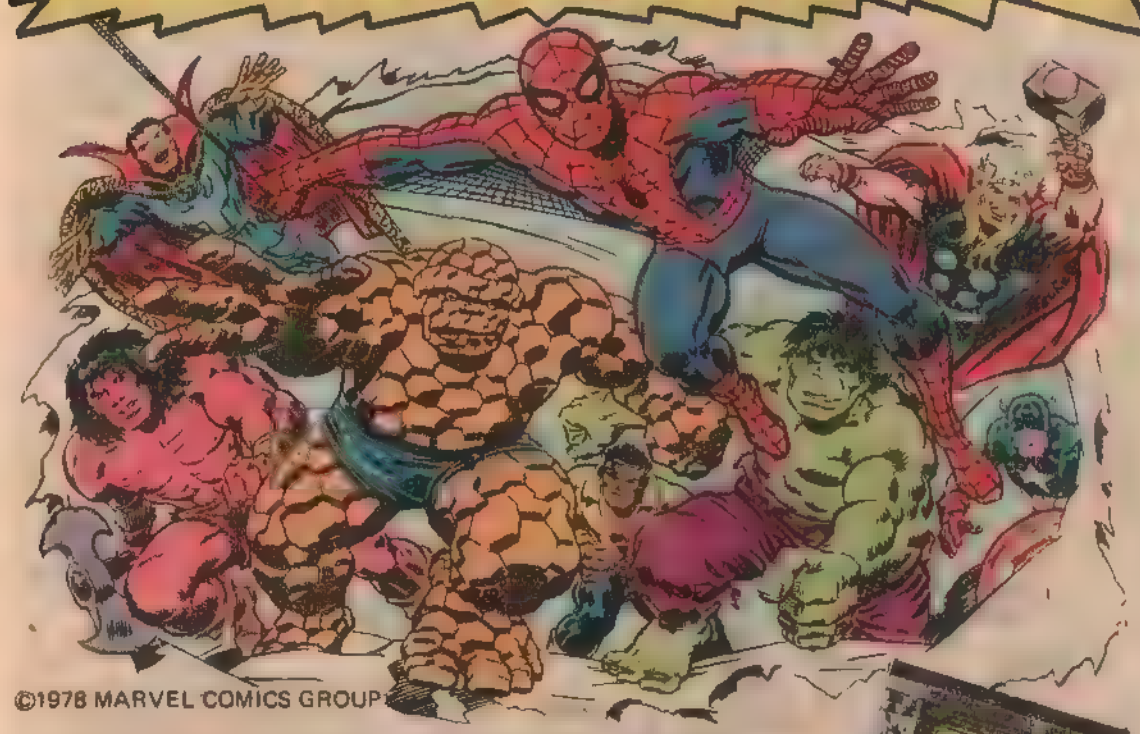

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FLY PAPERS

c o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

BOB HALL
EDITOR
MARY JO DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Before we get into your merry missives, pilgrims, we'd like to direct your attention to the MARVEL SPECIAL FEATURE elsewhere in this mag. Not only will you be treated to a fabulous HUMAN FLY adventure for your 35¢, but this issue offers you a two-page photo feature (Yep! Just what you've all been clamoring for!!) as well as an announcement of the HUMAN FLY STUNT CONTEST that we've been hinting at for the past few months!

What, you ask, do I have to do to win? Just read the info at the end of the photo feature (wherein you'll get bird's-eye glimpses of the Fly himself and some of your favorite Marvel personalities) and then get your hot little imaginations to working on . . . well, it tells you all about it there.

In the meantime, let's see what *you* have to say!

Dear FLYers,

When I purchased HUMAN FLY #10 I had to smile at the ironic, yet unintentional joke. I'm referring to the 100 plus day coal strike currently underway. Amidst the turmoil of the strike, it was amusing to see that *some* miners were still working. So much for the editorializing (a la J. Jonah Jameson). Now to get down to the comic-fan type jargon. Bill Mantlo's writing was very good, and Lee Elias' art was outstanding, especially on pages 7 and 26.

I liked Ted's noble attempt to stop Maddox and would like to see more scenes with the Fly's crew performing deeds of heroism similar to their leader's. (Of course, I've liked Ted from the very beginning.) In conclusion, I have one simple question: Why do so many Marvel bad guys bear a striking resemblance to a certain Anthony Stark? (What? You mean you didn't notice Dukas' face on page 7, the last panel?) Oh well, as long as the HUMAN FLY is around, I'll stick with him.

Don Collins
336 E. Dewey
San Gabriel, CA 91776

Any resemblance to persons living (except for the Fly himself, of course), dead or existing in any other Marvel mag (unless otherwise stated) was purely coincidental and all Mike Esposito's fault, Dan. Our blushing embellisher, in translating Lee's pencils to an inked line, inadvertantly sharpened some of Mr. Dukas' features, thus producing the resemblance you picked up on. Mike's inked not a few of the Golden Avenger's adventures himself, so the slip is understandable.

Hey, this seems as good a place as any to announce the news of our (once again) shifting art staff! Fearless Frank Robbins is off on a *long* vacation in sunny Mexico and won't be doing much work for anyone but himself for quite a few months. Lee Elias has shifted his not inconsiderable talents over to POWER MAN. That means that, for the next few issues, old-time syndicated strip pro BOB LUBBERS will be penciling the HUMAN FLY, with a continuing inking-assist from Gentlemen FRANK SPRINGER!

As for your first point, Daniel—HUMAN FLY #10 was plotted and drawn well before the now-settled coal strike was even begun. It was, for us, a nice coincidence that the two events correlated. . .but only coincidence, and nothing more.

Dear Marvel,

In HUMAN FLY #10, you made the following two mistakes:

(1) If a huge wooden beam fell on Joe Junior's legs, they would have been smashed into a million pieces. Thus, he could not have been moved.

(2) If Old Joe was just barely alive, how did he survive the escape through the flooded tunnel?

Other than that, HUMAN FLY #10 was a great issue!

Peter Borli
6424 City Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151

(1) Joe Junior's legs were *pinned*, Pete. Nowhere did we say they'd been crushed. (2) As we demonstrated, Old Joe's life was maintained by the Fly's sharing of his own oxygen with the unconscious miner.

Dear Marvel,

I'm a new comic collector. The very first Marvel I ever purchased was HUMAN FLY #1. What I like best about the Fly are the stunts he does. Whenever my friends and I play super heroes, I am always the Human Fly.

Dan Caillier
3165 Golden Oak
Dallas, TX 75234

Dear Bill,

It really amazes me how far the funnies have come. Had HUMAN FLY #10 come out in 1953, Marvel might have been put on FBI lists, denounced by Joe McCarthy, thundered at from the pulpit, and banned by every fanatical hate group. But here, in good old 1978, we can freely assess the merits and demerits of "It's Dark as a Dungeon Down In the Mines", and perhaps rationally discuss the politics of it without getting too emotional.

For a one-issue story, HF #10 was remarkably well paced, something that requires more than a modicum of talent. The Harlan County locale was a welcome change from your usual urban settings; you *must* have seen the great documentary *Harlan County, USA* before writing HF #10, Bill. A number of atmospheric qualities of the strike and repression plagued Kentucky hills were brought out in the book: the fear, the nearness of death, the constant conflict and potential for violence. . . but also the joy and camaraderie evidenced in the film were expressed by Bill!

But, before Mr. Mantlo's noggin becomes five sizes too large, I've gotta complain about something. Namely, the far too *pat* ending. I certainly expected the Fly to triumph—after all, that's what we've got the Comics Code Authority for, right? But it was a bit too much to have the villainous mine-owner beaten, Joe and Joe Junior saved, *and* to suddenly discover a "whole new seam of coal" all in the space of three panels! Workers back to work, safety observed, lynching averted. Fine—but so neatly falling into place cost your ending much of its credibility. Sorry about that.

But what really shone out this issue was a responsible, intelligent statement about something the country ought to be concerned about—unsafe mine conditions, the poverty of miners and the iron grip the frequently corrupt union has over their lives. This issue represented Marvel at its most socially-conscious best. Such social commentary is the Marvel tradition. If more of us had the courage to speak freely, what a wonderfully aware society we would have. Anyway, this soapbox is getting a little lofty.

Keep 'em FLYing, fellas.

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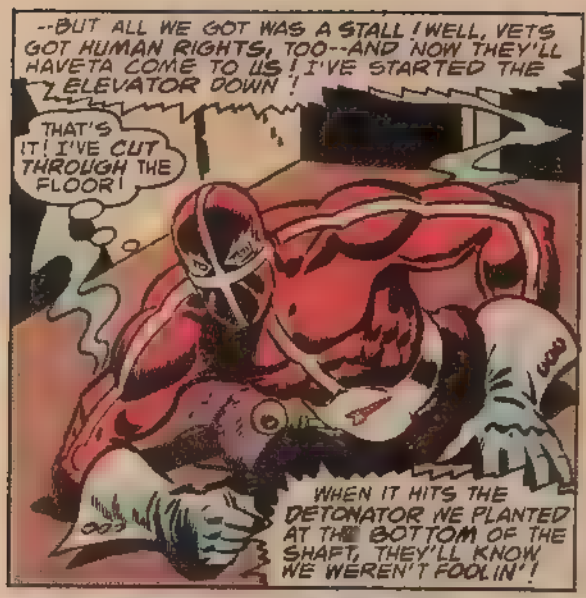
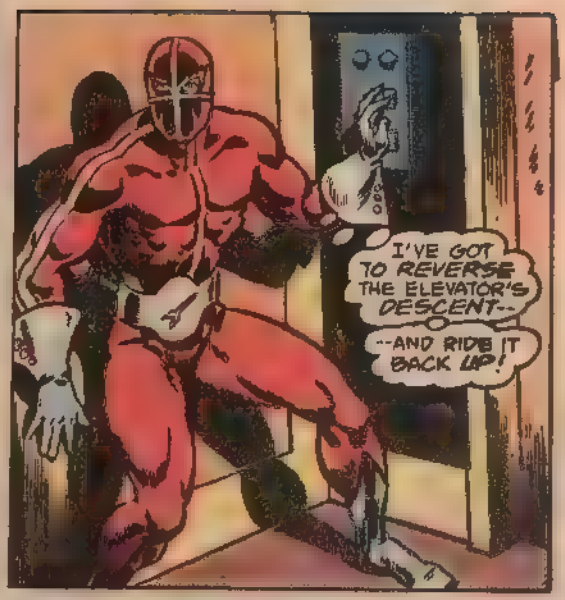
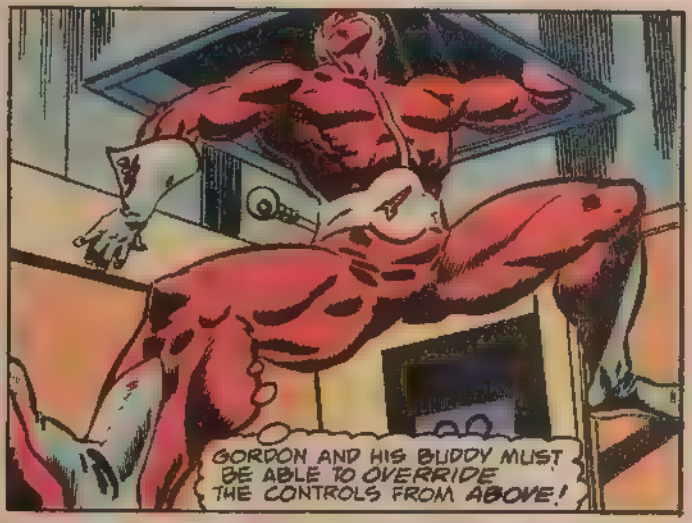
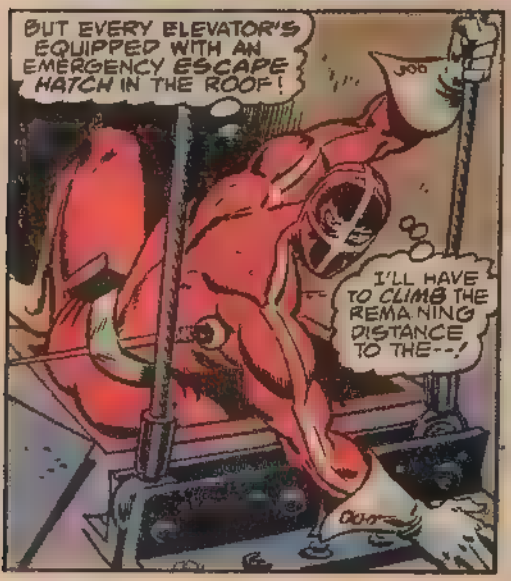
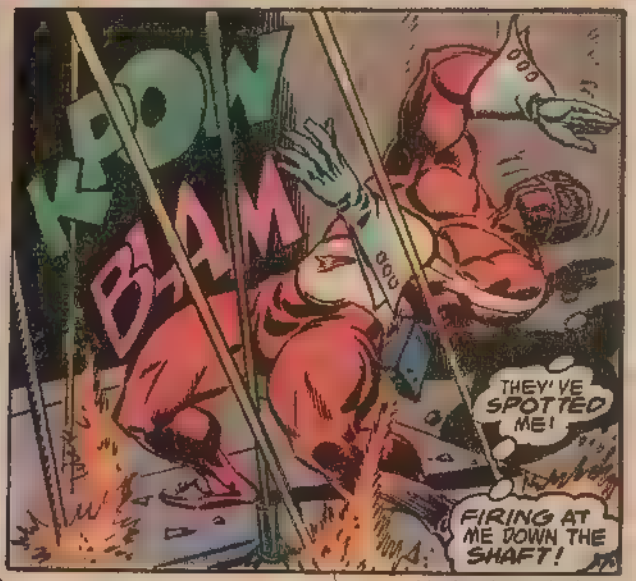

--BUT ALL WE GOT WAS A STALL! WELL, VETS GOT HUMAN RIGHTS, TOO--AND NOW THEY'LL HAVE TA COME TO US! I'VE STARTED THE ELEVATOR DOWN!
THAT'S IT! I'VE CUT THROUGH THE FLOOR!
WHEN IT HITS THE DETONATOR WE PLANTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SHAFT, THEY'LL KNOW WE WEREN'T FOOLIN'!









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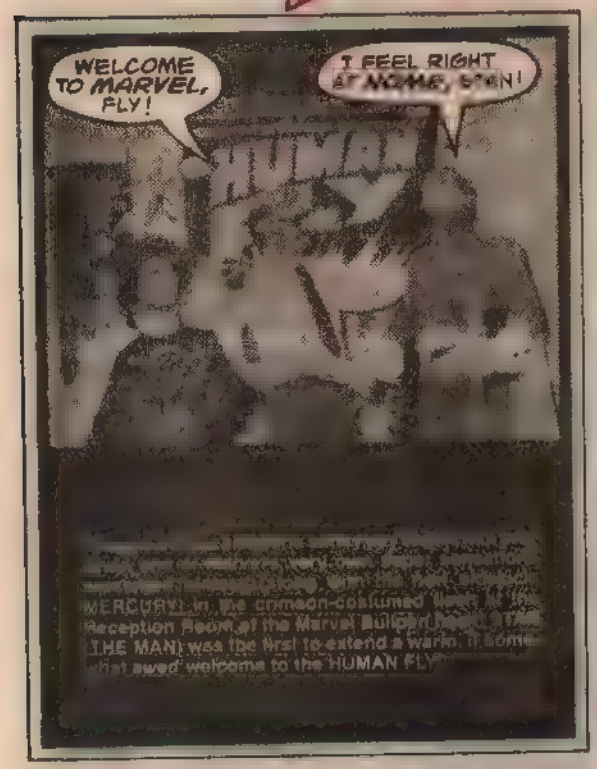
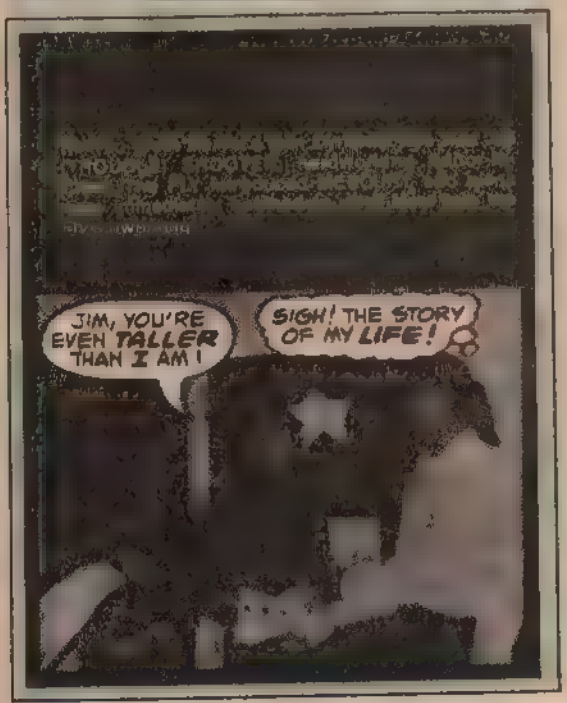
A MARVEL SPECIAL FEATURE!

THE HUMAN FLY





VISITS THE MARVEL BULLPEN!

Commentary: BILL MANTLO
Photos: D. JON ZIMMERMAN

DO I LOOK OKAY? IS MY HAIR COMBED?

As the FLY talked about his stunt-cycle failure in Montreal last year (shown in HUMAN FLY # 11), of his plans for future feats of daredevil[ry] as well as giving us a progress report on his upcoming [appearance] as a recording artist, who should come running into Marvel's Editorial Office but BOISTEROUS BILL MANTLO—Fly-scripter par excellance?

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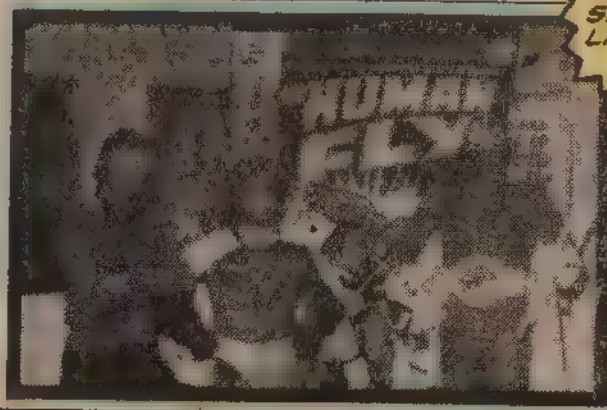

[illegible] down—or out of a picture!), the FLY and MER[illegible] a few [illegible] ideas for upcoming [illegible] photo you see to your left before a mockup of the memorable cover of "HUMA[illegible]

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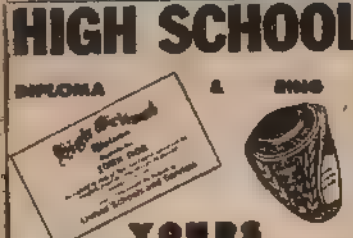

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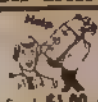

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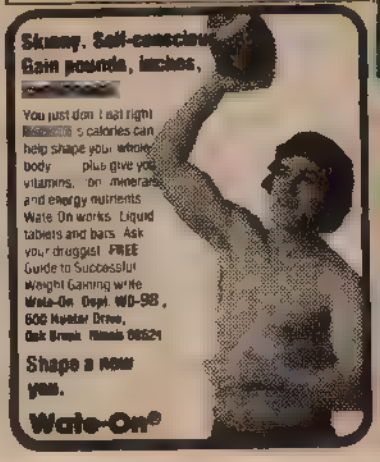

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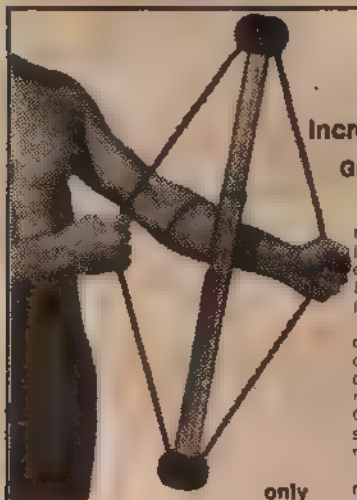

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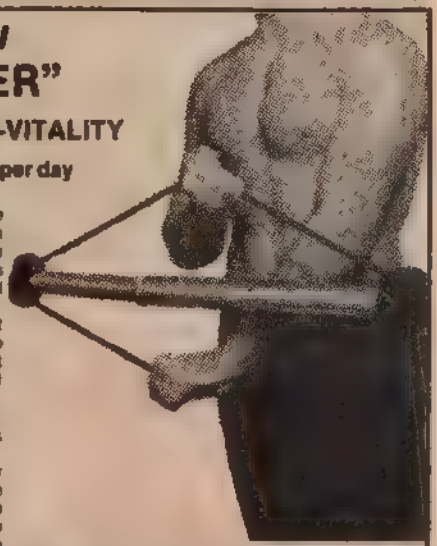

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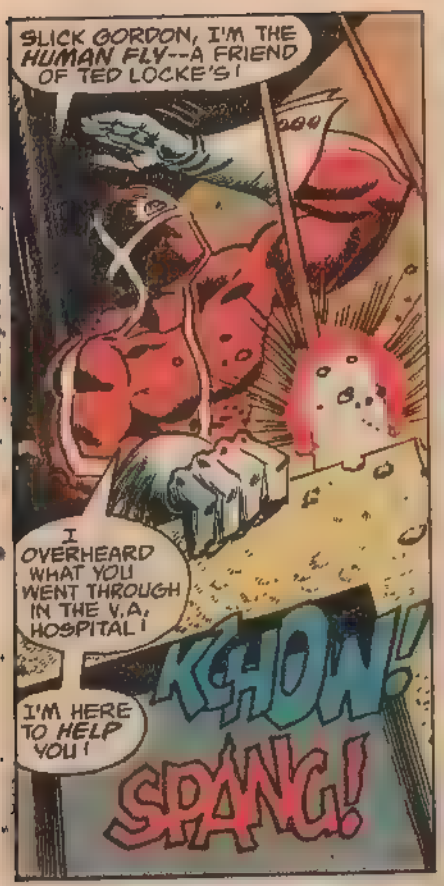
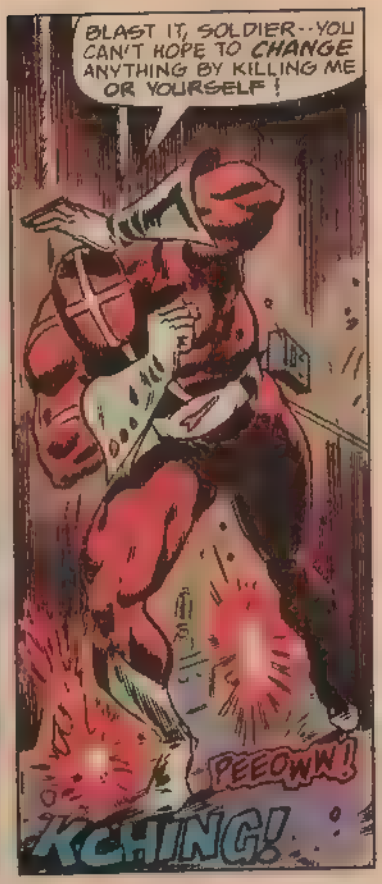
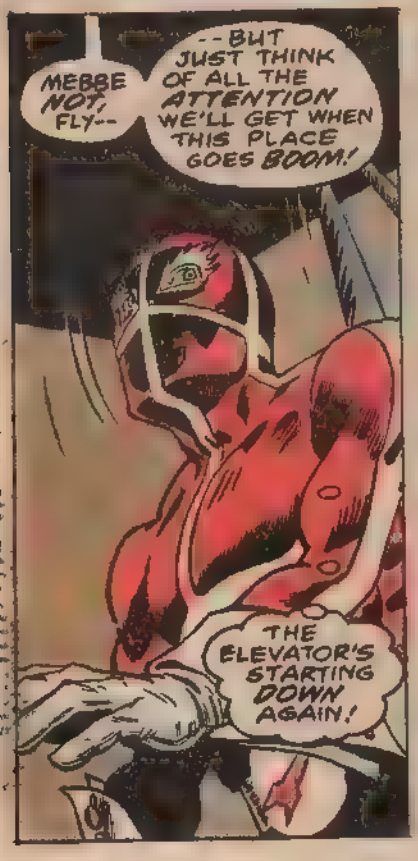

SLICK GORDON, I'M THE HUMAN FLY--A FRIEND OF TED LOCKE'S!
I OVERHEARD WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH IN THE V.A. HOSPITAL!
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
KCHOW!
SPANG!

GORDON MIGHT BUY YOUR SOB STORY, MASKED MAN--
--BUT NOT ME!
KRAK!


BLAST IT, SOLDIER--YOU CAN'T HOPE TO CHANGE ANYTHING BY KILLING ME OR YOURSELF!
PEEOWW!
KCHING!


MEBBE NOT, FLY--
--BUT JUST THINK OF ALL THE ATTENTION WE'LL GET WHEN THIS PLACE GOES BOOM!
THE ELEVATOR'S STARTING DOWN AGAIN!

--AND IT'S STILL SET TO DETONATE UPON CONTACT WITH THE GROUND FLOOR!
I CAN'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN! BUT WHAT CAN I...?

I'VE GOT IT! AS THIS CAB GOES DOWN--
--THIS CABLE GOES UP, TAKING ME WITH IT!

CLINGING TO THE RAPIDLY RISING CABLE, THE FLY IS WHISKED PAST THE OBSERVATION DECK AS THE VIETNAM VET RELOADS!
ALL RIGHT, SO YA GOT PAST ME, MASKED MAN.
BUT IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA GIVE YOU TIME TO MONKEY WITH THE DRIVE MECHANISM, YOU'RE CRAZY!
KRAK
ALL I GOTTA DO IS SEVER A FEW OF THE CABLES HOLDIN' THE ELEVATOR--
--AND SHE'LL DROP LIKE A STONE TO THE DETONATOR BELOW!
SPRANG
ELEVATOR
WRONG, SOLDIER! YOUR SHOT SHEARED THE CABLE ALRIGHT!
--AND AUTOMATICALLY ACTIVATED THE ELEVATOR'S HYDRAULIC BRAKES, STOPPING THE CAB IN THE SHAFT!
I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING --AND YOU WON'T BE BLOWING UP ANYONE TODAY!
THERE'S STILL YOU AN' GORDON, MASKED MAN! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
LARRY!!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BULLPEN BULLETINS

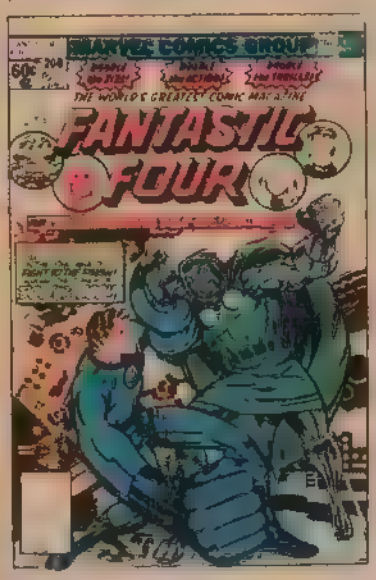
STAN'S SOAPBOX

Well, I guess there isn't a comicbook fan or a television watcher who hasn't caught a few of the Spider Man or Hulk prime-time TV shows by now. In the past few months I've received countless letters asking for my own opinion of these Marvel media cultural breakthroughs! And, since you've bothered to ask, the least I can do is help to obfuscate the issue with my own cryptic comments and cogent critiques. Naturally, as you may have guessed, I'd be happier if the shows hewed closer to our original comic book story lines, and yet, I'm aware of the reasons which caused the networks and the producers to make so many changes. Basically, they were afraid the shows would seem too "comicbooky" if they were presented exactly the way you see the stories in our own magnificent mags. The changes in both Spidey and the Hulk were made in an effort to mold the shows closer to the format of most other TV mystery and action dramas. My own personal feeling is that it would be better to take the opposite approach and make them as different as possible. However, I must say that both Universal Studios (the producers of the Hulk), and Danchuck Productions (who do Spider Man), have constantly striven to make their series intelligent, adult, and true to the basic spirit of the magazines themselves. I'm sure you can tell that neither series is done in a "camp" manner, nor have our characters been burlesqued or treated in a comball way. Both the acting and direction have been first-rate, and production standards have been as high as any other prime-time show. Since I function as consultant to our TV series, the producers and I really do discuss the stories and kick all sorts of ideas around, and I'm happy to tell you that they're slowly but surely beginning to come around to our way of thinking. As more and more Marvel shows begin to hit the airwaves, you'll notice that they'll begin to get closer to the original flavor and feeling of the offbeat Marvel style. And now, a word about another new Marvel TV project. Starting early in September (consult your TV listings for exact time), NBC will be presenting the Fantastic Four in cartoon form on its network Saturday mornings. Most of the basic stories will be Bullpen produced, and the animation is being done by the award-winning DePatie-Freleng Studios who also bring you the Pink Panther and many other famous cartoon series. Give 'em a look-in— we think you'll like what you see. In future issues, I'll tell you more about our burgeoning television and movie plans, but now it's time to get back to the real world— namely the pages of mighty Marvel!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! We *told* him not to try it, but he wouldn't listen! With a resolute shrug of his broad shoulders, Gigantic JIM SHOOTER began almost a year ago to guide the Avengers through a ten-part epic saga intended to stand as a true achievement in comics art. Now, many trials, tribulations, production problems and I told you-so's later, despite all the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune cast by unrelenting Fate, at last it's *finished*! As it turned out, it took practically the whole blamed Bullpen pitching in to pull it off, but Big Jim managed to coordinate the effort, somehow, and preserve the creative thrust of the tale as originally conceived. So let the banners fly and the trumpets blare, for issue #177 of THE AVENGERS marks the soul-searing *conclusion* of the story begun in issue #167! We've already read it, and believe us, it's a shocker! In fact, we figure there's bound to be more than a little *controversy* over the startling climax of this magnum opus. Some say Shooter has dared *too* much, even for mighty Marvel, but, as always, the final verdict is in *your* hands. Pick up your copy, (it's on sale now!), and tell us what you think.



ITEM! Everyone suspected it was coming all along, and yet Delightful DAVE COCKRUM and Pulchritudinous PATY still managed to surprise most of the Bullpenners with the announcement of their *wedding* April 28th! Dave assured us that the issue of *Ms. MARVEL* he's pencilling will come in right on time anyway, but ace Production Chief, Littin' LENNY GROW is arranging a week's extension just in case! After all, Dave can be excused for having other things on his mind for a while, and besides, judging from the overwhelming raves his *previous* Ms. M. effort brought, this one should be worth the wait! If you hurry down to your newsstand, if you're lucky you may *still* be able to latch on to issue #20, and if you're smart, come early September you'll be first in line among the art lovers to pick up the *next* spectacular issue! Don't miss it!

ITEM! Granted, *every* month seems to be stuffed full of special events and super surprises from the House of Ideas, but this little happening has to be *the* biggest yet! Marvel Comics passes a *Major Milestone* this month with issue #200 of the magazine that started it all— THE FANTASTIC FOUR! Issue 200 on sale the third week in August, also marks the 17th anniversary of the advent of the Mighty Marvel Age of Comics. To celebrate we've pulled out all the stops and made this landmark issue *twice* the normal size with double the action and thrills. Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, Creative KEITH POLLARD and Joltin' JOE SINNOTT crafted it with care and respect, and all of us at Marvel are very proud of their fine effort. More, we're proud of what it represents— namely the hard work, love and caring that has brought us all so far since the glorious day that Stan and Jack gave form and substance to their epochal ideas. To them, and to *you* our faithful following without whom we'd be nothing, our deepest thanks, and our *promise* to carry on the fine tradition left to us. If you can only buy one comic this month, join our celebration and plunk down your 60¢ for F.F. #200— *still* the World's Greatest Comics Magazine!

ITEM! The world has watched and waited in breathless anticipation for, these several months since DAVID MICHELINIE arrived on the Marvel scene, for the Deliberate One to pick up his first regular series. Now it can be told that with issue #116 of IRON MAN, on sale *now*, Dave joins John Romita, Jr., and Bob Layton to chronicle the monthly adventures of our favorite Armored Avenger! We've learned to expect the *unexpected* from Dave but we have to admit that he absolutely blew our minds on page seven with a startling plot development that had us checking to see if we weren't reading an issue of WHAT IF...? by mistake! Nope, it's *real*, friends, and believe us, it's something you've got to be there to believe. So *be* there!

ITEM! The other day, Earnest ERNIE CHAN stopped by the hallowed halls bearing an *enormous* envelope full of inked CONAN pages. As the minions of Marvel Assembled oohed and ahhed in admiration, Ernie quietly mentioned that, by the way, he'd have been in a bit sooner except for the arrival on April 25th of his new baby girl, CLEO CARON CHAN! After proper fuss and we all allowed as to how it was okay to be a bit late with the Conan job under the circumstances, especially since, in a month or so, we figure Captivatin' Cleo will be inking backgrounds for her dilligent Daddy!

ITEM! By the way, for those who are wondering where Boisterous BILL MANTLO has vanished to after his stellar stint on Iron Man, rest assured that he hasn't gone far. Bill set Iron Man aside to work with Magical MIKE GOLDEN on our latest and possibly greatest project— THE MICRONAUTS! You'll be hearing lots more about them very soon!

As this column was being written, word arrived that on May 7th, long time DC Comics editor, Mort Weisinger passed away. To his family, friends, our sincerest condolences.

ADVERTISEMENT

THOR -- IN GOOD OVERCOMES EVIL!

I CANNOT TELL IF THIS FORMIDABLE OPPONENT BE MAN OR MACHINE. EVEN THE MIGHTY MALLET OF MJOLNIR CANNOT MAKE A DENT IN HIS ATTACK.
THE CURSED THUNDER GOD LOSES SOME OF HIS THUNDER! HIS STRENGTH PREVAILS NOT AGAINST MY CREATURE!
AS LONG AS MYSTIC MJOLNIR CAN DEFLECT THY THRUSTS, THOU DOST FIGHT IN VAIN. BUT I KNOW NOT HOW LONG I CAN SUSTAIN MINE OWN STRENGTH.
BY THE GODS! MY MYSTIC FORCES INFORM ME THIS IS A BEING WHOSE MIND AND MUSCLE ARE UNDER THE SPELL OF AN EVIL MIND. WE MUST TEMPT HIS SENSES BACK TO REALITY.
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ENJOY THYSELF! EAT THY FILL OF APPLE, CHERRY AND PEACH FRUIT PIES!
IT IS GOOD TO BE ONE'S OWN MAN AGAIN AND TO ENJOY SUCH GOODNESS!
CURSES!

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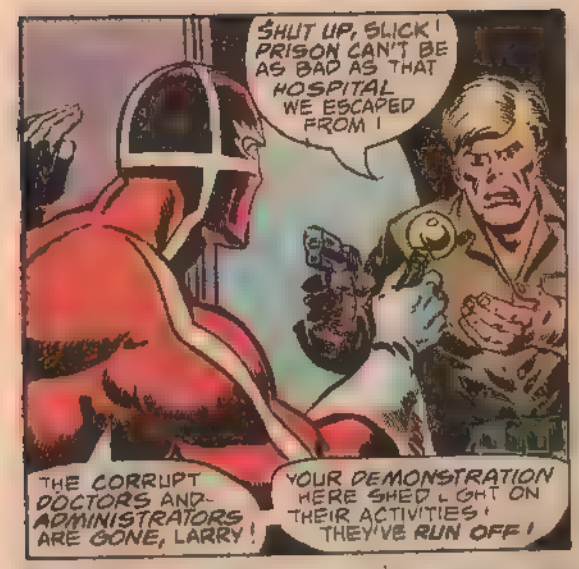
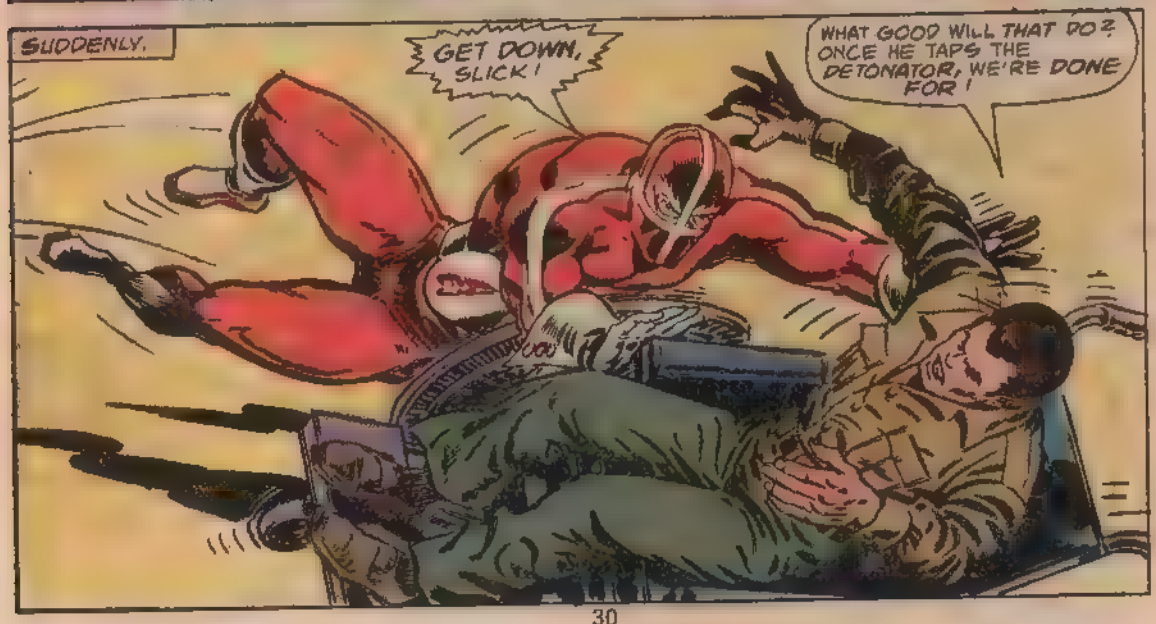

SHUT UP, SLICK! PRISON CAN'T BE AS BAD AS THAT HOSPITAL WE ESCAPED FROM!
THE CORRUPT DOCTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ARE GONE, LARRY!
YOUR DEMONSTRATION HERE SHED LIGHT ON THEIR ACTIVITIES! THEY'VE RUN OFF!

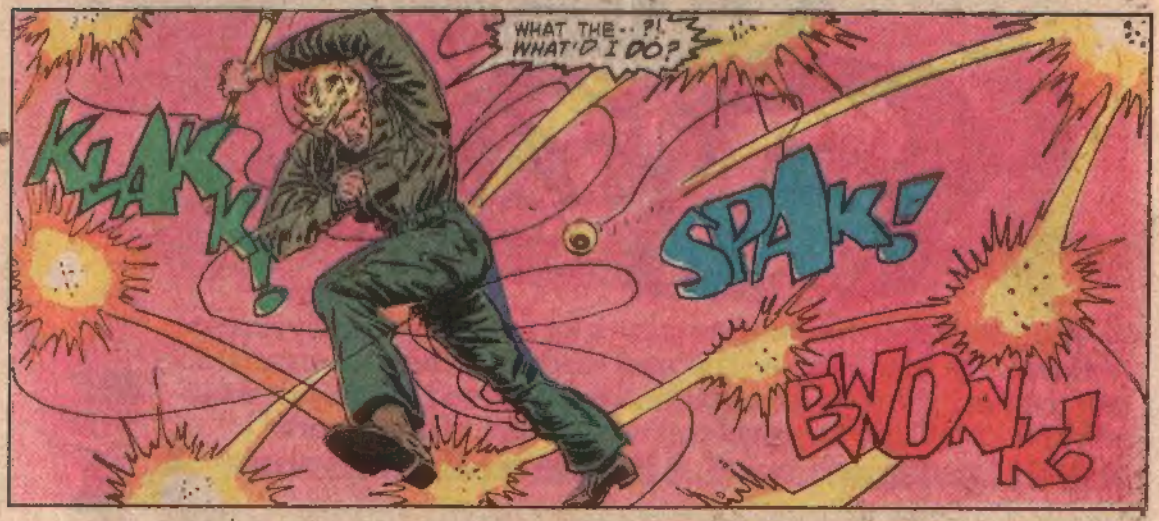
THEY'LL BE BACK! THERE'RE ALWAYS PARASITES WHO LIVE BY FEEDING OFF A MAN'S PAIN!
GIMME THAT STICK, MASKED MAN!

I--I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS, FLY. I AGREE WITH LARRY'S ANGER..I JUST WISH THERE WERE SOME OTHER WAY!
THERE IS! TELL THE PEOPLE! TRUST THEM TO CHANGE THINGS!

HAH! I WOULDN'T OF HAD TO GO TO WAM IF THE PEOPLE'D ACTED THEN!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, BUDDY! I CAN STILL TAKE THE TOP OFF THIS PLACE!
LARRY, NO!!


SUDDENLY,
GET DOWN, SLICK!
WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO? ONCE HE TAPS THE DETONATOR, WE'RE DONE FOR!

THAT'S RIGHT, BUDDY! I--
HUH?!
FWOOF!


WHAT THE--?! WHAT'D I DO?
KLAK K!
SPAK!
BWONK!

YOU PRESSED THE STUD THAT ACTIVATED MY BOLA-BATON, LARRY!
I KNEW IT WOULD RICOCHET LIKE MAD IN THIS CONFINED SPACE
--ENTWINING WHOEVER HAPPENED TO STILL BE ON HIS FEET!

LATER...
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME, SLICK! A DECENT V.A. HOSPITAL WHERE YOU'LL BE WELL CARED FOR!
A TEMPORARY HOME, TED! I GO TO WORK SOON--
--FOR A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' RIGHTS!
START BY HELPING YOUR FRIEND LARRY, SLICK! HE NEEDS YOU NOW!
NEXT-- NIAGARA NIGHTMARE!

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